

# Examples of Plagiarism

(The following example was drawn from Acknowledging The Work of Others illustrating several types of common plagiarism.)

## THE ORIGINAL PASSAGE

This book has been written against a background of both reckless optimism and reckless despair. It holds that Progress and Doom are two sides of the same medal; that both are articles of superstition, not of faith. It was written out of the conviction that it should be possible to discover the hidden mechanics by which all traditional elements of our political and spiritual world were dissolved into a conglomeration where everything seems to have lost specific value, and has become unrecognizable for human comprehension, unusable for human purpose. Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1973 ed.), p.vii, Preface to the First Edition.

## EXAMPLE I (word-for-word plagiarism)

This book has been written against a background of both reckless optimism and reckless despair. It holds that Progress and Doom are two sides of the same medal; that both are articles of superstition, not of faith. Interestingly enough, Arendt avoids much of the debates found in some of the less philosophical literature about totalitarianism.

*When material is taken directly from a book, article, speech, statement, remarks, the Internet, or some other source, the writer must provide proper attribution. In this example, no credit is given to the author.*

## EXAMPLE II (the footnote without quotation marks)

This book has been written against a background of both reckless optimism and reckless despair. It holds that Progress and Doom are two sides of the same medal; that both are articles of superstition, not of faith.<sup>1</sup> Interestingly enough, Arendt avoids much of the debates found in some of the less philosophical literature about totalitarianism. <sup>1</sup> Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1973 ed.), p.vii, Preface to the First Edition.

*When material is quoted word-for-word, a footnote alone is insufficient. The material that represents a direct quotation must either be put within quotation marks or indented. For example:*

**A.** As Hannah Arendt explains, her book was “written against a backdrop of both reckless optimism and reckless despair.”<sup>1</sup> The book “holds that Progress and Doom are two sides of the same medal . . . .”

**B.** As Dr. Arendt has explained:

This book has been written against a background of both reckless optimism and reckless despair. It holds that Progress and Doom are two sides of the same medal; that both are articles of superstition, not of faith.<sup>1</sup>

Interestingly enough, Arendt avoids much of the debate found in some of the less philosophical literature about totalitarianism.

### **EXAMPLE III (the paraphrase)**

Hannah Arendt's book, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, was written in the light of both excessive hope and excessive pessimism. Her thesis is that both Advancement and Ruin are merely different sides of the same coin. Her book was produced out of a belief that one can understand the method in which the more conventional aspects of politics and philosophy were mixed together so that they lose their distinctiveness and become worthless for human uses.

*Even if the author's exact language is not used, a footnote is required for material that is paraphrased.*

### **EXAMPLE IV (the mosaic)**

The first edition of *The Origins of Totalitarianism* was written in 1950. Soon after the Second World War, this was a time of both reckless optimism and reckless despair. During this time, Dr. Arendt argues, the traditional elements of the political and spiritual world were dissolved into a conglomeration where everything seems to have lost specific value. In particular, the separation between the State and Society seems to have been destroyed. In this book, she seeks to disclose the hidden mechanics by which this transformation occurred.

*Even though this example includes some original material, selected phrases of the original are woven throughout the passage - a. reckless optimism and reckless despair, b. traditional elements of the {our in original} political and spiritual world were dissolved into a conglomeration where everything seems to have lost specific value, and c. hidden mechanics.*

### **EXAMPLE V (the "apt phrase")**

Following the Second World War, scholars from a variety of disciplines began to explore the nature of "totalitarianism." One of the most pressing issues for these writers was understanding the "essence" of totalitarianism. How, for example, is a totalitarian regime different from an authoritarian regime? Although authors disagree on the precise answer to this question, a common thread running throughout most of the classic works on totalitarianism deals with the relationship between State and Society. In a totalitarian state, the traditional boundaries between State and society are dissolved into a conglomeration so that the two become indistinguishable.

*This passage is almost entirely original, but the phrase "dissolved into a conglomeration" is taken directly from Arendt. Even though this is a short phrase, it must be footnoted. Only phrases that have truly become part of general usage can be used without citation.*